

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2393

**Introduced by Committee on Utilities and Commerce (Levine
(Chair), Baca, Blakeslee, Cohn, De La Torre, Jerome Horton,
Montanez, Ridley-Thomas, and Wyland)**

February 23, 2006

An act to add Section 2872.5 to the Public Utilities Code, relating to telecommunications.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2393, as introduced, Committee on Utilities and Commerce. Telecommunications: automatic dialing-announcing devices: local emergencies.

Existing law authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to supervise and regulate every public utility, including telephone corporations, and to do all things necessary and convenient in the exercise of its power and jurisdiction. Existing law authorizes the commission to control and regulate the use of automatic dialing-announcing devices, which are automatic equipment that incorporates a storage capability of telephone numbers to be called or a random or sequential number generator capable of producing numbers to be called and that, working alone or in conjunction with other equipment, can disseminate a prerecorded message to the telephone number being called. Existing law exempts from that commission regulation law enforcement agencies, fire protection agencies, public health agencies, public environmental health agencies, city or county emergency services planning agencies, or any private for-profit agency operating under contract with, and at the direction of, one or more of these agencies, placing calls through automatic dialing-announcing devices are used to provide public service information relating to public safety, provide

information concerning police or fire emergencies, or provide warnings of impending or threatened emergencies.

This bill would require the commission, in consultation with the Office of Emergency Services, to open an investigation and rulemaking proceeding to determine whether standardized notification systems and protocol should be utilized by the above-described entities, to facilitate notification of affected members of the public of local emergencies. The bill would require the commission to report to the Legislature by January 1, 2008, on the results of the proceeding, including recommendations for funding notification systems and any statutory modifications needed to facilitate notification of affected members of the public of local emergencies.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 2872.5 is added to the Public Utilities
- 2 Code, to read:
- 3 2872.5. (a) The commission, in consultation with the Office
- 4 of Emergency Services, shall open an investigation and
- 5 rulemaking proceeding to determine whether standardized
- 6 notification systems and protocol should be utilized by entities
- 7 that are authorized to use automatic dialing-announcing devices
- 8 pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 2872, to facilitate
- 9 notification of affected members of the public of local
- 10 emergencies.
- 11 (b) The commission shall, by January 1, 2008, report to the
- 12 Legislature on the results of the proceeding, including
- 13 recommendations for funding notification systems and any
- 14 statutory modifications needed to facilitate notification of
- 15 affected members of the public of local emergencies.